

Application for
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SYSTEM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD

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SYSTEM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a system management information apparatus and a system management information method, and in particular, to a system management information apparatus and a system management information method in which a message issued from an operating system (OS) of an information processor is converted into a particular format and which generates correspondence information corresponding to the message and a command to be executed for the message.

Description of the Related Art

Heretofore, a computer system includes a console as an interface between an operator and the computer system. On the console is displayed a message indicating a status of the operating system. The message format varies depending on a type of the operating system.

JP-A-5-308415 describes technique in which an autonomous message sent from a telephone network switch B includes information such as urgency, day/time, a message identification, a message title, and detailed information in this order. The autonomous message from

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 In the method described in JP-A-5-308415
above, additional information items of a message such
as an output time and urgency of the message are

converted into a common format to thereby integrate the message display format.

In this connection, the operating system outputs, as a message, the additional information items such as an output time and urgency and text information items representing the contents of the message. The operator monitors the text information to conduct operation for the operating system. Additionally, even messages representing the same contents include different text information items depending on the operating systems.

In JP-A-5-308415, however, the integration of the text information for common or shared uses is not discussed. When the text information is not integrated, the operator must confirm the type of the pertinent operating system to monitor the contents of text information. This may cause erroneous recognition of the message contents. Moreover, such erroneous recognition of the message may also leads to a mistake in an operation of the operating system for the message.

In NNM, only an event conforming to SNMP can be converted into a message of a particular format. However, for a plurality of operating systems to convert messages into a common format, information outputted from an information processor not supporting SNMP must be converted into a message of a particular format.

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To confirm the meaning of a message and contents or details of operation for the message, the operator refers to information on associated manuals and information displayed by a help function of the operating system or the like. Such a message includes variable information such as a job name and device name. The information of the manual and the information displayed by the help function includes an item for the information include an item indicating that the pertinent information is variable information. Therefore, the operator must compare the information of the manual and/or the help function with the message to determine the contents of the message, and then the operator inputs an appropriate command. This may cause erroneous recognition of the message and a wrong operation for the operating system.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a technique in which text information of a message issued from an operating system of an information processor can be converted into a common format.

Another object of the present invention to provide a technique which can generate detailed contents of a message including variable message information such as a job name and a device name and which can generate correspondence information for the message.

Still another object of the present invention

to provide a technique which can generate a command to be executed for the message.

According to the present invention, a console for managing a plurality of computers on which
5 operating systems (OS) operate and the operating systems output messages of mutually different types and have mutually different command systems executes processing as follows.

The console acquires, from the computers, a
10 plurality of messages outputted from the operating systems operating on the respective computers, converts the messages, received from the computers, into messages of a common format, and displays, on the display, each of the messages converted into the common
15 format. More concretely, the storage of the console a file containing, for each of the messages outputted from the operating systems, a definition of a selection condition including a character string as part of the message and a message in a common format corresponding
20 to the selection condition. The file is referred to and the message acquired from the computers are converted into messages in a common format.

Moreover, according to the present invention, for each of the messages acquired from the computers,
25 correspondence information is displayed on the display and a command which is unique to an operating system having outputted the message and which executes the correspondence information is generated. The command

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is transmitted to the operating system having outputted the message. More specifically, for each of the messages outputted from the operating systems, the storage stores a file storing therein a definition including a selection condition including a character string as part of the message and a message representing correspondence information for the pertinent message. The file is referred to and the message representing correspondence information for the message acquired from the computers is displayed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from the consideration of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing a configuration example of a computer system according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a table showing a record format example of message analysis information records stored in a message analysis information file;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing an example of a procedure to customize an operating system message;

Fig. 4 is a flowchart showing a processing flow of a message customizing program;

Fig. 5 is a table showing a record format

example of correspondence information records stored in a correspondence information file;

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing an example of a procedure to generate correspondence information and a
5 command;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart showing a procedure example of a correspondence information generation program;

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing an example of a
10 display format of correspondence information;

Fig. 9 is a flowchart showing processing of a command generation program; and

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing another configuration example of a computer system according to
15 the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Description will be given of a first embodiment of the present invention by referring to Figs. 1 to 9.

20 Fig. 1 shows constitution of a computer system employing a system management information processing method according to the present invention. In Fig. 1, reference numerals 1 to 3 indicates central processing units (CPU) of the computer system,
25 specifically, CPU-A, CPU-B, and CPU-n. In the CPUs 1 to 3, operating systems 4 to 6 are respectively operating and are indicated as OS-A, OS-B, and S-C,

respectively. The operating systems 4 to 6 may be of the same type or may differ from each other. The central processor units are not limited in number.

Although not shown in Fig. 1, each of the
5 central processing units 1 to 3 includes a service processor (SVP). The service processor is a logic control circuit for the central processing unit and the console. JP-A-57-81655 describes a service processor. The service processor is connected via lines L1, L2,
10 and L3 to a controller 10.

The lines L1, L2, and L3 may be of any types. That is, these lines may be dedicated lines or may include a local area network (LAN) such as Ethernet and/or a public switched telephone network.

15 The controller 10 is implemented by a computer which can execute data processing such as a personal computer or a workstation. Although not shown, the controller 10 includes a CPU and a memory. It is only necessary that the controller 10 can operate
20 such operating systems, for example, of UNIX (a trademark exclusively licensed for the X/Open Company Limited in the U.S. and the other countries) and Windows (Windows (R) is a trademark of the Microsoft in the U.S. and the other countries) of the Microsoft.
25 Operating systems are not shown in Fig. 1.

The controller 10 is connected to a storage keeping therein a message analyze (analysis) information file 19 and a correspondence information

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file 20, a keyboard 22, and a mouse 23. The file 19 stores information to convert a message outputted from an operating system running on the central processing unit. The file 20 stores information to generate
5 correspondence information for the message and a command executable for the message. The files 19 and 20 may be kept in physically different storages or in one storage. The console of the present embodiment includes a storage keeping the message analysis
10 information file 19 and the correspondence information file 20, a display 21, a keyboard 22, and a mouse 23.

In the controller 10, the following programs operate to achieve the system management information processing method of the present invention.

- 15 (1) Message customize (customization) program 14
(2) Command generation program 15
(3) Correspondence information generation program 17

Like ordinary programs, these programs are executed by the CPU and the memory.

20 Additionally, in the controller 10, communication processing programs 11 to 13 operates to communicate messages and commands via the lines L1 to L3 with the operating systems 4 to 6, respectively. The communication processing programs 11 to 13
25 correspond to the operating systems 4 to 6, respectively.

The message customization program 14 refers to the message analysis information file 19 to convert

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messages received by the communication processing programs 11 to 13.

The correspondence information generation program 17 refers to the correspondence information file 20 to generate correspondence information for the messages.

The command generation program 15 refers to the correspondence information file 20 to generate commands executable for the messages.

10 The display processing program displays the following information on the display 21.

(1) Message converted by message customization program 14

(2) Correspondence information generated by
15 correspondence information generation program 17

When the converted message is displayed on the display 21, a message in a format unique to the operating system may also be displayed. As a result, the operator can confirm an original message outputted
20 from the operating system.

The input processing program 18 acquires input information from the keyboard 22 and the mouse 23. According to the contents of the acquired input information, the program 18 sends an indication of
25 execution to the correspondence information generation program 17 and the command generation program.

Details of the programs will be described later.

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Fig. 2 shows an example of a record format of message analysis information records 30 stored in the message analysis information file 19.

A message analysis information record 30 includes information items as follows.

(1) Selection condition 31 to select a message as an object of the record

(2) Setting information 32 as information to convert the message

For the selection condition, a position and a value of each word constituting the message and importance of the message are defined. The position and the value of a word are defined in a format of "WORDn = Value of WORD". The message importance is defined in a format of "Importance = Importance of message". The record 30a defines to select a message satisfying a condition that the third word of the message is "JSF621D", the fourth word is "M", and the fifth word is "volume". The record 30b defines to select a message satisfying a condition that the second word of the message is "JDJ451I". The record 30c defines to select a message satisfying a condition that the importance of the message is "A". It is possible to define a plurality of message analysis information records 30.

The setting information 32 is disposed to define a format and attribute information of the message after conversion. The message format is

specified as "MSG = message format" and the attribute information is specified as "attribute information name = attribute value". According to the record 30a, the format of the converted message is "please mount the
5 tape to initialize is treated volume "&WORD9& on device "&WORD11&"". Ordinarily, the messages outputted from the operating system are written in English. However, the messages after the conversion may be in Japanese, English, German, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, or the like.
10 The attribute information is defined as "&WORD11&" for "device name", "&WORD9&" for "job number", and "demand to mount the tape to initialize" for "status". In the setting information 31, "&WORDn&" indicates substitution of the value of the n-th word of the
15 message to be converted. For example, the value of 11th word is substituted for the device name of the attribute information of the record 30a.

Fig. 3 shows an example of a message conversion procedure conducted by the message
20 customization program 14.

The program 14 divides text information 40b of a message 40 which is in a format unique to the operating system and which is received from the communication processing program 11, 12, or 13 into
25 word units or per word to generate message information 41 including the divided words.

Next, the message customization program 14 accesses the message analysis information file 19 to

obtain therefrom a message analysis information record
60 satisfying the following condition.

(1) The value of the word specified by the selection
condition 31 matches or corresponds to that of the word
5 of the message information 41 obtained by dividing the
message in word units.

(2) Importance specified by the selection condition
matches importance of the obtained message.

Fig. 3 shows selection of a record 30a for
10 which word3, word4, and word5 have values, "JSF621D",
"M", and "VOLUME", respectively.

Subsequently, the message customization
program 14 substitutes the value of WORDn of the
message information 41 obtained by dividing the message
15 for &WORDn& of the setting information of the selected
message analysis information record 30a to thereby
generate a common format message 42. In Fig. 3, the
values "T01" and "AAA" respectively of WORD1 and WORD9
of the message information 41 are substituted
20 respectively for &WORD11& and &WORD9& specified by MSG
of the setting information. The value "T01" of WORD11
of the message information 41 is substituted for
&WORD11& specified by "device name" of the attribute
information. Similarly, "J123" is substituted for "job
25 number" of the attribute information.

Next, the message customization program 14
refers to an identification information table 43
storing information to identify an output source of a

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message and sets a name of an information processor or an information processing unit and an operating system name to a common formation message. In Fig. 3, information of a table 43a is set to the message.

Fig. 4 shows a processing flow of the message customization program 14.

The program 14 divides a message obtained from the communication program 11, 12, or 13 into word units (step 50).

10 Next, the program 14 searches the message
analysis information file 19 for a message analysis
information record 30 satisfying a condition described
in conjunction with Fig. 3 (step 51).

The program 14 then determines whether or not
15 attribute information with a value of &WORDn& is
defined in the setting information 32 of the obtained
record 30 (step 52).

If it is determined as a result of step 52 that the attribution information is defined, the value of WORDn of the message information 41 is substituted for a field of the attribute definition (step 53).

If it is determined as a result of step 52 that the attribution information is not defined or if step 53 is finished, the program 14 determines whether or not &WORDn& is contained in the contents of MSG of the setting information of the message analysis information record 30 (step 54).

If it is determined as a result of step 53

that the &WORDn& is not contained, step 56 is executed.

If it is determined as a result of step 53 that the &WORDn& is contained, the value of WORDn of the message information 41 is substituted for a field
5 of &WORDn& (step 55) and then step 56 is executed.

Finally, the message customization program 14 obtain an operation system name of an information processor having issued the message and sets the information processor name and the operation system
10 name to the common format message 42 (step 56).

The message 42 converted or generated by the message conversion processing is displayed by the display processing program 16 on the display 21.

A display indication of the correspondence
15 information is inputted from the keyboard 22 or mouse 23 for the displayed common format message 42. The input processing program 18 obtains the display indication and sends a generation indication of the correspondence information to the correspondence
20 information generation program 17.

Fig. 5 shows an example of a correspondence information record 60 stored in the correspondence information file 20. According to the contents of the record 60, the correspondence information generation
25 program 17 generates correspondence information.

A correspondence information record 60 includes items as follows.

(1) Selection condition 61 to identify a message

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(2) Setting information 62 in which information generated as correspondence information is stored

In the selection condition 61 of the
5 correspondence information record, a position and a
value of a word constituting the message are defined in
the format of "WORDn = value of WORD". The definition
of the record 60a indicates to select a message of
which the fourth word is "M" and the fifth word is
10 "VOLUME". A plurality of correspondence information
records can be defined.

In the setting information 62, a message format and button information are defined to display a message as correspondence information on the display

21. The button information defines a format of a command which is referred to by the command generation program 15. The message format is specified as "MSG = command format" and the button information and the command format are specified as "button name = command format". In the record 60a, the message format is "when you initialize as volume [&WORD9&], please mount the tape on device [&WORD11&] and push OK button. Please push a CANCEL button when you do not initialize." For the button information, "OK" and "CANCEL" are defined and the respective command formats are [R &WORD2& M] and [R &WORD3& S]. It is indicated that a value of the n-th word of the message to generate correspondence information is substituted for

&WORDn& contained in the setting information. For example, the value of the second word is substituted for &WORD2& contained in OK of the command format of the record 60a.

5 Referring now to Fig. 6, description will be given of a procedure to generate correspondence information and a command.

Fig. 6 shows a processing procedure to generate correspondence information and a command by
10 the correspondence information generation program and the command generation program 15.

The correspondence information generation program 17 selects a correspondence information record 60 from the correspondence information file 20 to
15 generate correspondence information. For the selected record 60, the message information 41 obtained by division in word units corresponds to values of the words of the selection condition 61. Selected in Fig. 6 is a record 60a in which the values of WORD3, WORD4,
20 and WORD5 are respectively "JSF621D", "M", and "VOLUME".

A value of WORDn of the divided message information 41 is substituted for &WORDn& of the setting information 62 of the selected correspondence
25 information record 60a. In this processing, there is produced a message [MSG =] of correspondence information 70. In Fig. 6, the values "AAA" and "T01" respectively of WORD9 and WORD11 of the divided message

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information 41 are substituted for &WORD9& and &WORD11& specified by MSG of the setting information 62.

According to the button information defined in the setting information 62, a definition "buttons
5 "OK" and "CANCEL" are to be displayed" is set to the correspondence information 70 (button 1 = OK and button 2 = CANCEL).

Subsequently, text information 40b of the message 40 in the format unique to the operating system
10 is set as ORG_MSG to the correspondence information 70. This completes the generation of the correspondence information 70.

The command generation program 15 generates a command in a command format of the setting information
15 of the correspondence information record 60 selected by the correspondence information generation program 17. The command generation program 15 generates a generated command by substituting the value of WORDn of the divided message 41 for &WORDn& contained in the command
20 format of the setting information 62. In Fig. 6, "R 57 M" is generated for "OK" and "R 57 S" is generated for "CANCEL".

Fig. 7 shows a processing flow of the correspondence information generation program 17 in a
25 flowchart. The program 17 starts the processing when an indication of correspondence information generation from the input processing program 18.

The program 17 searches for a correspondence

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5 condition 61.

10 17 executes step 86.

15 82).

20 &WORDn& (step 83). If it is found as a result of step

25 or not button information present or absent in the

a result of step 84, the button information is set to the correspondence information 70 (step 85).

Finally, the text information 40b of the message 40 in the operating system original format to the correspondence information 70 in step 86.

As a result of the processing, the display processing program 16 displays the generated correspondence information 70 on the display 21. Fig. 8 shows a display example of the correspondence information 70.

Fig. 8 shows an example of display of the correspondence information 70. The display message is displayed in the correspondence information display area 87. The text information 40b of the message 40 in the operating system original format is displayed in a message display area 88. "OK" and "CANCEL" are displayed as buttons 89a and 89b, respectively.

When the button 89a or 89b is pushed, the input processing program 18 sends to the command generation program 15 information of the selected button as a command generation indication. According to the command generation indication, the program 15 generates a command.

Fig. 9 shows a processing flows of the command generation program 15.

The program 15 determines whether or not a command format corresponding to the button is defined in the setting information 62 of the correspondence

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information record 60 (step 90). The record 60 used by the program 15 is a record retrieved by the correspondence information generation program 17.

5 If it is found as a result of step 90 that the command format is not defined, the processing is terminated. If it is found as a result of step 90 that the command format is defined, the program 15 determines whether or not the command format contains &WORDn& (step 91).

10 If it is found as a result of step 91 that the command format does not contain &WORDn&, the command format is set to a generated command 71 and then the processing is terminated. If it is found as a result of step 91 that the command format contains
15 &WORDn&, a value of WORDn of the divided message 41 is substituted for a field of &WORDn& to obtain a generated command 71 (step 92).

The command 71 thus generated through the processing is sent, to the operating system having
20 issued the message, by the communication processing program 11, 12, or 13.

To install the image customization program 14, the command generation program 15, and the correspondence information generation program 17 in the
25 controller 10, it is only necessary to use a computer-readable information recording medium such as a compact disk read-only memory (CD-ROM) having stored thereon these programs.

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The computer-readable information recording medium has the following aspects.

(1) On the computer-readable recording medium, there is recorded a program for controlling a console for
5 managing a plurality of computers on which operating systems (OS) operate, the operating systems outputting messages of mutually different types and having mutually different command systems, the console including a storage and a display. The program
10 includes the steps of converting messages acquired from the computers into messages of a common format and displays, on the display, each of the messages converted into the common format.

(2) On the computer-readable recording medium, there
15 is recorded a program for controlling the console described in (1) above. The program includes the step of displaying, when displaying each of the messages converted into the common format on the display, also a message before conversion of the pertinent message on
20 the display.

(3) On the computer-readable recording medium, there is recorded a program for controlling the console described in (1) above. The program includes the step of displaying, on the display, each of the messages
25 converted into the common format in Japanese.

(4) On the computer-readable recording medium, there is recorded a program for controlling the console described in (1) above. The program includes the step

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(5) On the computer-readable recording medium, there

5 is recorded a program for controlling the console

10 condition including a character string as part of the

(6) On the computer-readable recording medium, there

20 described in (5) above. The program includes the steps

(7) On the computer-readable recording medium, there

is recorded a program for controlling the console

described in (5) above. The program refers to the file which contains, for each of the messages outputted from the operating systems, a definition of a selection condition including a character string as part of the message, positional information of the character string in the message, and a message in a common format corresponding to the selection condition.

(8) On the computer-readable recording medium, there is recorded a program for controlling the console described in (1) above. The program includes the step of displaying, for each of the messages acquired from the computers, correspondence information on the display and generating a command unique to an operating system having outputted the message, the command executing the correspondence information, and transmitting the command to the operating system having outputted the message.

(9) On the computer-readable recording medium, there is recorded a program for controlling the console described in (8) above. The program includes the step of referring to a first file stored in the storage, the first file storing therein, for each of the messages outputted from the operating systems, a definition including a first selection condition including a character string as part of the message and a message in a common format corresponding to the selection condition, converting, when the message acquired from the computers contains a character string matching with

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"296E8860"

According to the embodiments, the text information of messages outputted from the operating systems can be converted into a particular format. For example, when the types of the operating systems of the computer systems are mutually different from each other, the messages from the operating systems can be converted into a common format. Additionally, for a message from an operating system, correspondence information can be generated to be displayed according to the embodiments. Moreover, for a message from an operating system, an operation command for the message can be automatically generated to be transmitted to the

According to the embodiments, the text information of messages outputted from the operating systems can be converted into a particular format. For example, when the types of the operating systems of the computer systems are mutually different from each other, the messages from the operating systems can be converted into a common format. Additionally, for a message from an operating system, correspondence information can be generated to be displayed according to the embodiments. Moreover, for a message from an operating system, an operation command for the message can be automatically generated to be transmitted to the

operating system. This resultantly facilitates the management and operation of many types of operating systems. Therefore, possibility of erroneous operations of the operators is minimized and the system operation can be achieved with high reliability.

According to the embodiments, a plurality of computer systems can be managed with a reduced number of operators. This consequently minimizes the system operation cost.

Furthermore, according to the embodiments, by describing the data of the setting information items and 62 in a desired language selected from many available languages, the messages can be presented in the desired language. Therefore, the format of operating system messages can be altered without changing the specification of the operating system. That is, the messages can be notified in various languages.

Next, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described.

Fig. 10 shows a configuration example of a computer system and a network management system employing a system management information processing method in a second embodiment of the present invention. In fig. 10, the same constituent elements and programs as those of Fig. 1 are assigned with the same reference numerals.

The second embodiment differs from the first

embodiment in that the controller 10 is connected to a network management unit 100. The unit 100 manages network nodes 102 and 103 constituting the network.

A message customization program 14, a command generation program 15, and a correspondence information generation program 17 operates in the same way as for those of the first embodiment to convert messages from the network management unit 100 into a common format.

According to the embodiments, the overall information processing system including the network nodes can be comprehensively managed.

In accordance with the present invention, the messages outputted from the operating systems of the information processors can be converted into a particular format. Furthermore, according to the present invention, for a message from an operating system, correspondence information can be generated to be displayed, and an operation command for the message can be automatically generated to be transmitted to the operating system.

Moreover, in accordance with the present invention, since the format of operating system messages can be altered without changing the specification of the operating system, the messages can be easily presented in various languages.

The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense. it will, however, be evident

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